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THE BULLOCK ORIOLE IN KANSAS

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The Bullock Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*) has been reported within the state of Kansas by F. H. Snow, basing his statement on two specimens taken in 1871 along the Wakarusa river near Lawrence, Kansas. This record has been questioned by Professor Lantz, but was reasserted by Professor Snow in 1903 in his "Notes on the Birds of Kansas and a Revised Catalog". It is in this catalog given the status of a very rare summer resident. Captain B. F. Goss, in his "Birds of Kansas", quotes Professor Cook as saying that this species is common in western Kansas during migration, and that it has been seen as far eastward as Manhattan in 1883; but Goss states that he has never met with the birds within the state and therefore considers its occurrence very rare.

On June 6, 1924, while en route to Colorado, the writer's attention was attracted to a pair of these orioles on a wire fence along the pavement just beyond Garden City. In order to verify this observation, I stopped the car and examined the birds carefully through a pair of good binoculars, and identified them with certainty as the species above named. It having been my first meeting with this species in Kansas, I kept watching for other individuals along the highway, and to my surprise was able to count seven between Garden City and the western Kansas line. On one other occasion besides the one mentioned, the car was stopped to verify the identification of two of these birds.

The fact that so many individuals were seen so late in the season, and the further fact that in all but one case these were seen in pairs, leads me to suspect that the Bullock Oriole is a summer resident of western Kansas. Though this speculation has not been verified, it is certain that the species named may not any longer be considered rare within the state.

To the mind of the writer it is not impossible that the agricultural developments of the last forty years in the vicinity of Garden City may have some influence in the extension of this bird's range. However, the matter has not been given sufficient attention to justify conclusions, and I suggest it as a subject for further observation.